

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Plovdiv Medical Schools

1. There are two medical schools in Plovdiv, as follows:
 - a. The Ivan Petrovich Pavlov Academy of Medicine, founded in 1945 and located in the building of the former French College; it provides for six years of study, including one year of clinical work in the hospital; students can qualify in all branches of medicine except dentistry; in 1951, the total number of students was approximately 1,500, when almost 250 graduated and received their diplomas; and
 - b. The School of Nursing which is attached to the Academy; open to students who have a secondary school education; curriculum is to be extended from two years to three years.
2. At the end of 1951, between 20 and 30 of the graduates of the Academy of Medicine at Plovdiv were enlisted for service in the regular Army before their final examinations and clinical year. These were Party members who had reached the age of 26 and had not yet served in the Army. Four or five physicians of the group, also Party members, remained to work in Plovdiv and the remainder were sent to the provinces. Doctors are frequently sent to Dimitrovgrad for a period of three to four months; when one group returns, another is sent out.

Sofia Medical Schools

3. The following medical schools are located in Sofia:
 - a. The Vŭlko Chervenkov Academy, which was located at No. 3, Dunav Street in 1947; in 1944, approximately 3,000 students were enrolled, and, in 1950, almost 1,000 completed their studies;
 - b. The Academy of Dentistry, the only school of its type in Bulgaria; and

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- c. At least one nursing school.

Hospitals in Plovdiv

4. The main hospital in Plovdiv is attached to the Academy of Medicine and has wards for all branches of medicine except mental diseases. It is housed in a single block of buildings. The department for nervous diseases is a separate department located in the former private hospital of Dr. Stoikov. The internal department, with approximately 200 beds, is subdivided into three sections with eight or nine physicians working under a professor in each section. The department for skin diseases has approximately 40 beds; the surgical department has almost 120 beds; and the infectious diseases section has about 60 beds. The gynecology department occupies three floors, one of which is set apart for the maternity clinic.³
5. The former Workers' Hospital has been affiliated with the University hospital since the beginning of 1951. It is located near the railroad station.
6. The military hospital is housed in the "Christian Hospital" building, a former religious foundation. It has only two sections, for internal and surgical diseases.
7. There are six or seven dispensaries in Plovdiv, one in each area of the city.

Research Institutes

8. A research institute for bacteriological, hygiene, and tuberculosis is located in the Kudoglu Building near the central post office of Plovdiv. The bacteriological department is under the direction of the Academy of Medicine.
9. A similar research institute is located on General Zaimov Street in Sofia.
10. The Kudoglu Institute is active in the fight against tuberculosis which is common in Bulgaria. The nurses of the Institute visit patients in their homes, examine people who have contact with tubercular patients, and make sure that those affected by the disease undergo an examination every six months. The Institute publishes a monthly bulletin dedicated to the fight against consumption. There is also an anti-tuberculosis organization in Bulgaria.

Rest Homes

11. Every factory worker is entitled to spend two weeks in an ORPS (Obsht Rabotnicheski Profesionalan S'uyuz; General Workers Professional Union) recreation home once every few years. Most of the expense incurred is borne by the union; workers only pay 3,500 leva (old currency) for the vacation.
12. Scientists and artists have recreation homes of their own. They belong to a separate professional union called KNIK (Kamara na Nauka Iskustvo i Kultura; Congress of Art, Science, and Culture); physicians are required to join this organization.⁴

Drugs

13. Drugs are distributed to all hospitals, dispensaries, and pharmacies by the DSAP (D'urzhavno Sanitarno Aptekno Predpriyatie; State Health and Pharmaceutical Enterprise). The Academy hospital uses penicillin and streptomycin, which are the only two antibiotics used in Bulgaria. The penicillin is of Soviet origin and the streptomycin is of American origin; it is rumored that the USSR will also supply pink streptomycin. Vitamins and novarsenal are also obtained from the USSR. Bulgarian-produced penicillin ("Penicillin Nativ"), for external use, is available. The only anti-malaria drugs in use are Bayer plasmochin and atebrin. The only sulfa drug available is sulphaguanidin, of unknown origin, which is prescribed only for children. Diet is the only treatment for diseases such as tularemia and typhoid.

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Blood Banks

14. Blood transfusions are given at the Plovdiv central hospital. Plasma is not used.
15. There are blood banks at the surgery department of the hospital in Plovdiv and at the Red Cross station in the city. Donors come on Thursday, about once every six weeks, and are paid by the patients requiring the blood at the rate of approximately 2,000 leva (old currency) for 300 cubic centimeters of blood. The government encourages the donation of blood by granting additional food rations to donors.

Soviet-Satellite Medical Cooperation

16. Medical specialists from the Soviet Union occasionally lecture in Bulgaria, but there is no other contact between the physicians of the two countries. Bulgarian specialists frequently visit the other Satellites. For example:
- a. Professor Mitov, internal diseases specialist, spent six months in Czechoslovakia in 1951; and
 - b. Doctor Taskov, infectious diseases specialist, visited Czechoslovakia at the same time as Professor Mitov.

Epidemics

17. In 1950-1951, there was an epidemic of scarlet fever in Plovdiv. Many schools were closed and used as hospitals; the central hospital was so crowded that two children were placed on each cot. Treatment consisted of penicillin, fever-reducing drugs, heart-strengthening drugs, and diet. The children living in the same house as a fever patient were confined to the house and given penicillin for eight days and the house itself was disinfected with formalin.
18. In 1951, an outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in northern Bulgaria, reportedly brought in (sic) from Rumania.
19. In March 1952, there was an outbreak of influenza in Plovdiv. Grippafllu tablets and another drug were distributed free of charge at all pharmacies.

Personalities

20. Informant identified the following personalities:

- a. Professor Tonchev (fmu), a specialist in internal diseases, works at one of the hospitals in Sofia;
- b. Professor Chilov (fmu), chief of the internal diseases department of the Aleksandrovska Hospital in Sofia;
- c. Professor Yurkov Boyova, chief of the therapeutics and pharmacology section at the hospital of the Academy of Medicine in Plovdiv; studied in America,

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- d. Professor Chervenkov (fmu), surgeon specialist at the hospital in Plovdiv,

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4. Comment: Probably Komitet za Nauka Iskustvo i Kultura; Committee for Science, Art, and Culture is meant.

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